Dear Js,

9/9/75

After Howard left and after we had a light supper I should have just relaxed by reading something. With all the clips filed and odds and ~~work~~ ends of work just buried under the considerable debris of two very intensive weeks, what there was out to read did not appeal so I wrote a couple of ;etters and then started the big job of cleaning up and refiling. I mean the dining-room table is still cluttered, as are two ~~xxxx~~ chairs there! But I can see most of my desk and parts of the tops of filing cabinets and there is nothing left on the floor except what belongs there, so I'm made enough progress to indulge my knees and quit that for the night.

I'll get the rest of the cleaning up done in the morning. CBS is to phone then to make a date to come here. (Mr. Nasty, on the King case, the producer downgraded to writer.) There is so much to do that after the rest of the cleaning up I'll arrange the rest of the week's work around his plans. But I do have to clean up before I get to the numerous text annotations so I can spread out again and keep control.

I'm still too wound up to go to bed, so I decided to take a jigger of that 12-year Johnny Walker about a fifth of the Xmas quart of which remains in a sort of celebration while making a few unimportant notes.

I made no changes in Howard's annotations except for a few minor errors. Some are more extensive than I'd have preferred but the book is so big anyway I don't think long footnotes that do not run over onto other pages are a problem. He did a fine job, the book credits him with it and I wanted it to be his way. Not only a fine job-one I'd not have been able to undertake. I was finishing the writing while he did much of it.

In reading the notes and filling in the pages of cross-references I came to realize again how much I've forgotten. Including what is in this book. It was some but not enough comfort when he said he is surprised at how much of all the enormity I remember, not that I've forgotten. I guess it is part natural, part mental fatigue, part emotional. But I don't like it and it makes me a bit uneasy.

It will not go as fast when I annotate the text because I'll not be able to holler to him for answers or searching. All these, however, have to be very short so I'll be able to do the typing myself without great frustration over the typos.

I'll not have time to reread the text, either. Many details require attention and I'll have only until Lil completes the index to take care of them. I have to xerox the appendix for her to use in indexing. And stand and watch while it is done to be sure no corrections fall off. Ugh! Her indexing time will be reduced by Block work she can't avoid, which can mean delaying the book.

Once the thing is in manufacture I'm going to have to find some way and the energy to make much space in the cellar. And not only for this one. Two others are getting close to the need for reprinting. With no help it won't be easy, either. I guess all the extra work ahead is one of the wearying factors.

There are also good feelings. Despite the literary liabilities, this is a powerful work, entirely overwhelming for those who do not stay underwhelmed. There can be no rational argument against the evidence in facsimile. Howard feels the same way and wanted to be part of it. Whether it succeeds we'll know before too long.

I'll send a few status reports and see what the reactions are. Schweiker's headline grabbing hasn't helped. I understand it got heavy radio play. Too bad there is so much of this.

May interest you to know I'm using all the original papers of the President's own physician and the full text of the panels' reports. If you haven't seen them they should make you feel you're along a different body of water, it is that Byzantine.

Best,